(d) if so, when the restoration work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Fathepuri Masjid is not a centrally protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India hence it is outside the preview of ASI. The Wakf Board has not approached ASI for any technical help for conservation work.

Theft of cultural heritage

†1510. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that number of incidents of theft pertaining to cultural heritage has increased; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Available information does not indicate that the incidents of theft of heritage objects are on the rise. Watch and ward staff are deployed to ensure protection of the ancient sculptures and artifacts in the nationally protected monuments, sites and museums. Their strength has been supplemented by private security guards, State Police and Central Industrial Security Force.

Monuments in Himachal Pradesh

1511. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally protected monuments/sites which have been declared of national importance in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government does not have any concrete planning for their day-to-day maintenance;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the details of steps Government proposes to take to protect these sites; and

(d) the amount sanctioned from National Culture Fund to Himachal Pradesh and the details of amount actually spent on these monuments/sites in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Forty monuments/sites in Himachal Pradesh have been notified as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has an annual conservation programme for all centrally protected monuments/sites as per assessment of the state of preservation. Required civil works and chemical preservation are undertaken as per archaeological norms subject to availability of resources.

(d) Archaeological Survey of India has spent the following amount from its budget on conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years:

2004-05	Rs. 59.19 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 89.80 lakhs
2006-07	Rs. 117.50 lakhs

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

There is no project under private public partnership through National Culture Fund in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Survey of sites of historical and cultural importance

1512. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a USA based organization has conducted a survey in the world under the drive of 'World Monument Watch' and listed some Indian sites of historical and cultural importance in the Most Endangered Sites in the World;

(b) the number of monuments/sites of historical and cultural heritage declared Most Endangered Sites from Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether Government has taken any serious note on this survey and formulated any conservation plan to save these sites of Indian cultural heritage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The World Monument watch, a US based private organization conducts to such surveys from time to time. They have included 5 Indian sites in the list of Most Endangered Sites 2008, none of which has been notified under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 as of national importance; nor is any of these sites located in Himachal Pradesh.

Protection of monuments

1513. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of monuments presently protected by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and State Governments State-wise;

(b) whether there are thousands of monuments as on date which are neither under the control of ASI nor the State Governments which have not been protected so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide protection to such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 3667 monuments protected by Archaeological Suvey of India (ASI). The State-wise position is given Statement— I (*See* below). Besides, there are 3573 monuments protected by State Governments. The State-wise position is at Statement—II (*See* below).

(b) There are a large number of monuments which are neither under the control of Archaeological Survey of India nor under State Governments.

(c) There is no datebase which gives details of unprotected monuments.

(d) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has been launched to prepare a national database of the archaeological remains, sites, antiquities and monuments of the country.

The Central Government may declare any ancient monument or archaeological site and remains as protected under the Ancient Monuments, and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 keeping in view the importance of the site.